THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 29. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

Important General Meeting E.L.F.S., Friday, October 9th, 1914, at 8 p.m.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, Oct. 4th, 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Women's Hall—Miss S. Pankhurst Miss Nina Boyle.
Monday, Oct. 5th, 3 p.m.—Bow, Women's Hall.
8 p.m.—Lesbia Road—Miss Feek.
8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Road—Mrs. Davies.
Tuesday, Oct. 6th, 2.30 p.m.—30 Churchill Road (indoors)—Miss Hockin.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Women's Hall, 20 Railway Street—Miss M. Phillips.
7.30 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Road—Mr. S. Franklin, Mrs. Walker.
Wednesday, Oct. 7th, 8 p.m.—Poplar, East India Dock Gates—Mr. J. C. Rose, Miss Rickards.
8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mrs. Walker.
Thursday, Oct. 8th, 3 p.m.—Deacon's Vestry—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Knapp Road.—Mr. C. Gray.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd.—Miss Fedden.
Friday, Oct. 9th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Canning Town, Beckton Road—Miss Somers.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Mrs. Walker.

A MEETING

WILL BE HELD IN

CANNING TOWN PUBLIC HALL,

BARKING ROAD,

Tuesday, October 13th,

At 8 p.m.

To demand a minimum wage for women of 5d. an hour or £1 a week.

Speakers:

SYLVIA PANKHURST,
GEORGE LANSBURY,
Mrs. PARSONS,
Mrs. DESPARD.

Chair: Miss PATERSON.

OUR EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

Our women who can work, care more for work than charitable doles of food, and what we want most of all is money to set them to work to make clothes to give away to those destitute mothers who are unable or have too many children to be able to do anything beyond the unpaid labour of caring for their homes and children.

Who will pay 5/6 to make a serge dress and knickers to match for a little girl of five, and 1/11 for an overall?

Who will pay 2/- for a baby's cotton nightgown?

Who will pay 2/6 for a baby's flannel barra coat?

Prices for other garments on application.

Materials for making up, and second-hand clothes for mending and re-making, can all be turned to account.

THE POPLAR WOMEN'S HALL.

This Hall in Railway Street, Poplar, (close to South Bromley Station), was opened by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes on Monday, September 28th. This will take the place of the office at 319 East India Dock Road.

The new hall is already the centre of many activities.

The restaurant presided over by Mrs. Ennis Richmond, started with 100 customers to dinner the first day.

The Mother and Baby centre is growing apace.

A Babies' Nursery and Employment Bureau will shortly be added.

CLOTHING STALLS.

We are starting clothing stalls at our centres, where those who care to pay a little for new or second-hand clothes can buy. Boots and shoes are very urgently needed.

OUR MOTHER AND BABY CENTRES.

The number of expectant and nursing mothers, babies and invalids to whom milk is given is growing rapidly, in spite of the fact that we help only the more urgent cases. We greatly need gifts of—

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE. BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT and BANDAGES.

BOOTS!

BABIES' OUTFITS.

We wish to be able to lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months, and to give them the first set of short baby clothes.

With the money subscribed for finding employment, we are getting baby clothes made, and paying unemployed women for making these things. Those who would give money and materials for making baby clothes would help in one of the best possible ways. Gifts of baby clothes can be made good use of, also nightdresses, quilts, blankets and sheets for the mothers. Even old sheets can be cut up for babies' napkins.

Each baby's outfit should consist of:—

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, three flannel barras, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two night gowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

THE BABIES' HOUSE.

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes will open another house in Bow next week, which will be used as a babies' nursery. In a factory at the rear the women will be employed in various kinds of work, and those who have young children will be able to leave them in the nursery.

We want toys and all sorts of baby gifts.

A LIVING WAGE FOR WOMEN

Dear Friends,—When war started Parliament voted a War Loan of £100,000,000, and it was promised that some of this should go towards the relief of distress caused by the war.

Later, the Prince of Wales' Fund was started, and has reached more than £3,000,000. We understand that one-sixth of this money has been advanced to the wives and families of soldiers and sailors, but what the soldiers and sailors families have had was in any case due to them from the War Office, and should be repaid by the War Office to the Prince of Wales' Fund.

The Government knows that if men are too long kept out of work there will be trouble, and it is right that there should be trouble. Therefore they have passed an Emergency Housing Act to provide £4,000,000 in order that Local Authorities may employ men in building houses. Over two and a half million pounds of this money has already been applied for, and £532,000 has been sanctioned. Grants from the Road Board have been promised, and £450,000 has actually been granted towards road improvements, valued at a million pounds; other extensive works are contemplated. The Local Government Board has also sanctioned loans to Local Authorities, other than Poor Law authorities, of £3,500,000 as compared with about £1,928,000 during a corresponding period of the year 1913.

So you see, friends, that something is being done to provide work for men—not enough we know, and especially not enough in East London—but more must and will be done if men will continue to press for it. I am on the Mayor's Local Representative Committee for the Borough of Poplar. Only a small proportion of those who are suffering through the War have registered at the libraries, and I find that the Labour Representatives are all agreed and prepared to accept the situation, that works cannot be put in hand until more men will register.

TO OUR MEN FRIENDS

I would say, therefore, please register for the sake of yourselves and your families, and to help us to help you more. Do not be content with the relief scale, although it is a little better than the Guardians' scale! Demand work at fair Trade Union rates, and see that you get it!

NOW AS TO THE WOMEN.

What is being done to find work for them? Everyone is agreed that more women than men are being, and will continue to be, thrown out of employment by the War, and the Labour Exchange figures prove conclusively that this is the case, although for a variety of reasons many unemployed women do not register at Labour Exchanges.

But what is being done for the women? A beggarly £60,000 has been collected by the Queen's "Work for Women" Fund, and because only this small sum has been collected, it is said that women must be content to work for a maximum wage of 10s. a week. People are saying that women must be content with these shameful doles because there is no more money to pay with. There is plenty more in the country, and it is the duty of the Government to come to the women's aid. Many organisations that for years have been preaching the need for paying higher wages to women are holding their peace now, and refusing to criticise this shameful treatment of unemployed women, in the hope that the workrooms which they have opened from charitable motives may get a grant from the Queen's fund. They say: "Isn't it better to employ ten women at a sweated wage than five at a fair wage and leave the other five to starve?" The answer is: "No; pay a fair wage to those you employ and force the Government to provide for the rest." Of course those who criticise the arrangements that have been made for unemployed women become unpopular. I, the only representative of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes on the Poplar Mayor's Committee, was the only woman on the Mayor's Committee left off the sub-committee for dealing with the local workrooms established under the Queen's Fund. This, of course, is because I and the Federation have opposed ourselves to the sweated wage of 10s, but it was our duty to do it.

WORKING WOMEN.

You will have to come out and agitate for yourselves. Do not leave it to others to do it for you!

WORKING MEN.

In hundreds of thousands of homes women will be obliged to take men's places as breadwinners for many years to come because of this War. Come forward and stand by the women now! Help them to secure a living wage!

A campaign of meetings to demand a minimum wage for women of 5d. an hour or £1 a week starts on October 13th, at Canning Town Public Hall. Be there and give it a fine send off!

Yours in freedom's cause,

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

The Poplar Board of Guardians has passed the following resolution:-

That this Board calls upon His Majesty's Government at once to establish a minimum wage of 12s. per week for all soldiers and sailors now serving with the colours, or who may enlist during the present war, from which no allotment of any kind shall be taken, together with an adequate money allowance for the wives, children and other dependents of such soldiers or sailors, and a further pledge that at the end of the war, all disabled and partially disabled men, together with their dependents, shall be a charge upon the resources of the nation, and that all able-bodied men returning in good health be maintained, together with their dependents, until such time as they are absorbed in the ordinary industry of the country; further, that the widows and dependents of those who die whilst in the forces shall receive adequate monetary allowance from national sources, so that they shall be entirely independent of any charitable fund.

2-Course DINNER 2d.

From 12 to 2 p.m.

The "WOMEN'S HALL," Old Ford Rd,

AND

The "WOMEN'S HALL," Railway St, Poplar

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name .....

Address .....

WOMEN! JOIN THE

East London Federation of the Suffragettes —

WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose 1½d. to cover membership and postage.

SALE OF WORK, Antiques and China. Friday, October 23rd, 2.30 to 9.30, at Alan's Rooms, 263 Oxford Street, W. organised by Forward Cymric Suffrage Union Proceeds for the Welsh Women and Children suffering through the War. Mrs. D. A. Thomas will open the Sale. Speeches by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Abadam, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss Emerson, Mrs. Davies. Subject: "Women and War." Tickets and all particulars from Mrs. Mansell-Moullin, 69 Wimpole Street, W. Entrance—Threepence after 6.30.

BUY Dimoline English Made Pianos. Special prices during the war. Cramer 12 guineas. 11 Parkhurst Rd., Holloway.

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

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Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

No. 29.—Saturday, Oct. 3rd, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

THE WAR CURE.

It is said that the only hope of securing the peace of Europe is to go on making war until the spirit of militarism, or in other words, the war-making ideal has been exterminated. This advice to war-stricken Europe is not exactly the equivalent of prescribing a hair of the dog that bit you to cure the wound made by his teeth, the prescription is rather to cure the dog's wish to bite by advising him to go on biting more.

Many British people say that to put an end to war it is necessary that Great Britain shall have a supremely gigantic Army and Navy, in order that we British, who are always perfectly just and righteous, and "Who do not want to fight (but by jingo if we do") may be in a position to beat any other nation that may dare to attack us or our friends.

Numbers of British people say that, and believe it with all their hearts. Many of these people in the past have urgently demanded Home Rule for Ireland, and have been bitterly opposed to our government of India, a government which has altered little in spite of political changes in successive Cabinets. Many of these people have declared that British rule, or any other rule, is oppressive, if it is built up on the principle of brute force, and the submission of the weak to the strong. They have insistently proclaimed the need for votes for women, on the ground that even men of the same race and the same social class, will trample on the rights of women whose political power is not co-equal with their own.

These people are now casting aside the maxims they have lived by. The Government, that until August last, they hated and feared because it was only partially representative of its own people, they now assume to be capable of dealing with absolute justice towards alien peoples.

But just as do our own Insular-Patriots, so multitudes of those alien peoples view the Governments of their own countries now in this fearful war time, and whilst, to some, England is for the time being an ally, to others, she is "Perfideous Albion" as of yore.

What is to end European strife? What is the final solution of the knotty problem towards which we must bend our aims? Can any of us who have been fighters here for freedom believe in our inmost hearts that justice can be built on force? Can we believe that we are fitted to dominate all other peoples, we, with those serious social and economic failings towards our own people, especially towards women and towards children, which we share with all the so-called civilized nations, but in which, in some respects, we are the greatest sinners? Can we believe that *any* group of nations should dominate the rest? Can we believe that the domination by brute force can possibly be for the ultimate good, either of the nations who dominate or of those who are dominated by the rest?

Surely we cannot, for were we to do so the very bedrock of our faith in the representative Government for which we have been fighting would be overthrown.

The letter which has been published in many papers under the signature of X, and to which Miss Hollins refers in her subsequent letter, which appears on page 115, has doubtless struck a responsive chord in many a woman's heart. But Miss Hollins too must dismiss from her mind the idea that the War can be stopped by appealing to one combatant only. This apart, of what use would a puny thousand of women be amongst all the millions of men who are fighting in the war?

It might seem that at least half the women of every country would be eagerly ready to join such a force, to make their way to the battlefields and fling themselves between the combatants in order to put an end to war. But half the women of the nations are not yet clear enough of outlook, certain enough of purpose, or of a developed unity of spirit for the accomplishment of this act, which would be infinitely greater than any careful nursing of the wounded and woeful helpless mourning of the slain.

Nevertheless, though we women seem as yet unready for so bold an effort, the time for it may one day come, and meanwhile we must strive towards a permanent means of settling disputes between nation and nation without resorting to that wasteful and barbaric method—War.

Private individuals, too, once fought their quarrels out by force. Now they settle them by legal process. Some day nations will do the same. At the present time we have the Peace Palace at the Hague, but the Hague Tribunal is almost without power. The agreements made by it so far have usually related to matters of detail designed to make warfare a little less horrible to those who read of it, and these agreements are broken in the stress of actual war.

But the peoples of the world, if they so determine, can make the International Court of Arbitration all powerful, and we in Great Britain, can play our part with the rest.

We can insist that in the future international matters shall not be decided in secret by Cabinet Ministers and permanent officials, but that they shall be dealt with fairly and openly, as other branches of the nation's business. We can insist that, as far as may be, our own country shall take its difficulties and disputes with other nations to the Court of International Arbitration, and shall loyally abide by the result.

The International Court must be given power to enforce the decrees which are decided by the majority of the nations in conference. For this purpose international troops would hardly, we think, be necessary, for the power of international boycott would even greater. What country is there that could face for any length of time the prospect of the supplies of raw materials and manufactures from all other countries being cut off?

But national Law Courts are often cruel, and courts of *in*justice rather than justice from the human standpoint, and so might an International Law Court be.

Our British Law Courts often fail to give justice, because the laws which they administer have hitherto been made in the main by well-off men, and because men of the privileged classes have acted as judges and magistrates. Women have had no voice in the making or the administration of the legal system. Poor men also for long were denied a voice in the making of laws, and these facts have left their marks deeply engraven upon our legal code. To injure the health and happiness of a child is held as a lesser crime than to forge a cheque or to steal a few pennies from a gas meter under stress of hunger. He who breaks the law by taking his employer's money is sent to prison. He who breaks the law by underpaying his workers is lightly fined.

Fairer and more humane ideals must be brought into the making and administration of our national laws and law courts. Equal representation must be given to both sexes. Privileges of class must be swept away.

So, too, in the realm of law, as between men and nation, the countries with the big armies and navies and long purses must not be allowed to dominate and crush those that are smaller.

Wars are fought, as a rule, for commercial objects, for the acquisition of valuable markets and territory, but when wars are being declared, and whilst they are being fought, these material objects are kept as far as possible from public notice, and, as a rule, it is only in after years that they are fully understood. The most altruistic and disinterested motives that can be found, or invented, for going to war alone are placed in evidence, and these are widely trumpeted forth. Only for honour and justice and pity for the oppressed can the mass of the people of this or any country be aroused to enthusiasm for war.

And this fact shows us that always when great issues rise it is safe and wise to trust the people, and "the people" means women as well as men!

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

THE SCANDAL OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

Day by day information comes to us of the scandalous mismanagement and unscrupulous dealing of Government contractors.

Last week the women employed by Messrs. Polikoff of Cambridge Road, E., came out on strike against making soldiers' blankets at 1½d. a dozen. This is very heavy work and frequently done by men. The women asked 3d. per dozen, but when men do the work they are paid more.

Government contractors should be forced by the Government to pay to the women they employ not less than 5d. an hour, the wage of a man unskilled labourer. If contractors fail to pay this modest sum and to avoid all overtime, employing double shifts of workers when haste is essential, the Government should refuse to give them orders, and should open factories to execute War Office and other contracts on its own account.

SWEATING IN THE QUEEN'S WORKROOMS.

WHAT WILL QUEEN MARY DO?

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes appealed to the Queen to prevent the employment of women in the workrooms established in connection with her fund at the sweated wage of 3d. an hour and maximum of 10s. a week. The Queen replied by referring the Federation to the Central Committee for Women's Employment. After interviewing the Secretary, Miss Mary Macarthur, and failing to obtain satisfaction, the Federation asked the Queen to receive a deputation of working women. They were again referred to the Central Committee for Women's Employment, and wrote as follows:—

In reply to your Majesty's letter of the 28th instant, referring our request for an interview with your Majesty to the Central Committee for Women's Employment, I am instructed by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes to say that we have already interviewed the Secretary of the Central Committee for Women's Employment on this subject, and that our appeal for a living wage to be paid to the women in your Majesty's workrooms has, so far, been made in vain.

To prove to your Majesty that 10s. a week is not enough to pay to a woman with children dependent on her, we would point out that the Distress Committee scale for the cases with which they ordinarily deal, is as follows:—10s. a week for the woman, 2s. a week for the first child, 1s. 6d. a week for the second child, 1s. a week for each other child, and in addition fares to and from work over 1½d., and a free dinner, the value of which is 6d.

In your Majesty's workrooms no allowance is proposed for fares, and the women are to be charged 3d. a day for their dinners and a small sum for tea.

The Distress Committee scale is a low one as compared with some others. The scale which has been adopted by some of the Mayor's Local Representative Committees as a basis for relief without work (and surely a higher scale of maintenance usually goes with work than without), is as follows:—12s. 6d. a week for one adult, 7s. 6d. a week where two or more adults live together, 4s. for each child from 10 to 16 years, 3s. 6d. for each child from 5 to 10 years, and 3s. for each child under 5 years, with a maximum of 25s. per family, save in exceptional cases.

Your Majesty may be under the impression that the women employed in your Majesty's workrooms will not be expected to live on this 10s. a week, and that their weekly incomes will be supplemented in other ways; but this plan is in our view gravely mistaken. All self-respecting women would prefer to be paid a living wage for their work than to have a sweated wage supplemented by charitable doles. Further, there is no guarantee that the wage will be supplemented, for we learn that the Leyton Mayor's Local Representative Committee has adopted a relief scale of 3s. 6d. per week of a woman, and a maximum of 10s. a week for a family. The women employed in your Majesty's workrooms in the district of Leyton will not be able, therefore, to count on anything beyond the 10s. which will be paid to them in wages.

In no district will the supplementary dole be anything but precarious and degrading to the women, who will be forced to appeal for the bitter bread of charity, unless your Majesty will see fit to insist that a living wage shall be paid.

We believe that your Majesty would not wish that women should be employed in your Majesty's workrooms at a rate on which it is impossible for them to exist; and we therefore again urge your Majesty to receive this deputation of working women, who will explain how they live and what their daily expenses are.

Faithfully yours,

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST,

Hon. Sec. East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

It is said that Relief Workrooms in which the women are paid more than 10s. a week in wages will not receive grants from the Queen's Fund. Is this true?

THE FIRST-BORN.

This beating on the gates of death
That open not! This labouring breath!
This strange indignity
Of anguish! Is it I—
Once light and free of flying gait
Untrammelled by the body's weight—
I, in this rending stress
And mortal helplessness!

o o o o o

Ah, what so softly to me pressed?
What shrill complaining draws my breast?
It seems mine arm enrings
All piteous wailing things!
And, oh, the tiny roseate face
And eager mouth that seeks apace
The very means to live
Which I alone may give!
And paying thus my human toll
From dim confusion of the soul
And glorious breaks the light,
Great Love's resistless might,
I see revealed creation's price
The everlasting sacrifice
The rapture to redeem
At cost of pain's extreme.

S. S.

WOMEN'S PEACE CRUSADE.

To the Editor of the WOMEN'S DREADNOUGHT. Dear Madam,—The *Westminster Gazette*, of September 9th, publishes the following paragraph:—

"A letter reaches us signed by 'X.,' Lyceum Club, 128, Piccadilly, W., in which is suggested the formation of a Women's Peace Expeditionary Force, with a view to putting an end to the War. Let this unarmed force, says the writer, each member of which should be ready to sacrifice her life that peace might prevail, march as a deputation to the Kaiser and the Emperor Francis Joseph. 'Let us attempt to cross Europe in the teeth of the guns, if necessary, dressed in a quiet grey uniform, and carrying a white banner, whose symbol should be a dove, and its motto, "'Not by might, nor by power, but by Thy Spirit.'" At least a thousand women would be needed to make the protest effective, and it need hardly be said, adds the writer, that the wives and daughters of diplomatists should be specially urged to join the crusade, 'and that any Royal lady whose heart might be stirred to action would immediately strengthen the force of the appeal.'

"When thousands of men are dying for their country in a cause they understand little of, and those on whom conscription weighs go to war 'like dumb driven cattle,' cannot we women lay down our lives for a mighty cause—the love of Love—and so put an end to the greatest evil in the world."

The letter to which the above paragraph refers appeared in full in the *Daily Herald* of September 12th, and in part in the *Woolwich Pioneer* of September 18th, and has also been alluded to by Miss Norah O'Shea in the *Common Cause*.

Since then I have received over thirty replies from women and men, to all of whom the idea seems to appeal (some mention that they had already thought of it, which shows that it is "in the air") though some doubt whether the difficulties would not be insurmountable.

We are, however, holding meetings every Friday at 5.30, at 274, King's Road, Chelsea, to discuss this scheme and alternative ones, and should welcome any of your readers.

Whatever we may find it possible to do, we hope that by organising a large body of anti-war opinion amongst women (for which purpose we are communicating with representatives of Peace societies and Women's organisations) we may help towards a permanent peace basis on international democratic unity.

That this is the only right foundation of society is surely what the terrible object lesson of the war is teaching us.

One of the chief suggestions in my letter was that the Women's Crusade must be *international*, this has been omitted by the *Westminster Gazette*. Let us get French, Belgian, Russian, American, and even German women to join us if we can. It is too soon to say what steps we may decide on as we grow in numbers; what seems at present of the most importance is, that each one should strive to become a centre of Love and Peace, and thus help to lessen the harmful spirit of hatred to our enemies and self-righteousness as regards ourselves which is likely to be fostered by this war. The wives and children of German soldiers (many of whom are forced unwillingly into the conflict) have surely as much claim to our pity as our own womenfolk and those of our allies.

We hope we may presently get up a peace-campaign in England, beginning with an open-air demonstration in Hyde Park on All-Soul's Day (November 2nd), and after that, if large numbers of American women should join us (a scheme in regard to which Madame Thoumain, the Swiss peace-advocate, is working enthusiastically) we may cross over to the Hague, by which time our next step would have become clear.

I would gladly give extracts from the correspondence I have received if your space allowed, but will only mention that Miss Norah O'Shea, Miss L. L. Glasier (Editor of the *Young Socialist*), Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser, Miss Eglantyne Yebb (Agricultural Improvement Society), Miss J. Wade (Animals' Friend Society), Miss L. E. Turquand (Hon Sec. to Branches of Free Church League for Women's Suffrage), Mr. Edward Carpenter (author of "Towards Democracy"), and Mr. Tom Ferris (Leeds Brotherhood, author of many pamphlets, etc.), are some of those interested in the scheme, and that Mr. George Meggitt, of Greenwich, has kindly offered to design us a banner.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHEA HOLLINS,
1, Swan Walk,
Sept. 29th. Chelsea, S.W.

IMPRESSIONS of our INTERVIEW with Miss MACARTHUR.

By Mrs. DRAKE of Tidal Basin.

We were shown into a splendidly furnished apartment. Gilt chairs, wicker chairs, typewriters and tables, and very rich carpets on the floor. After we had waited a considerable time, Miss Mary Macarthur came in from lunch, and I do not suppose the lunch cost at the rate of the 10s. a week that she seems to think is enough for women who are thrown out of employment through this terrible war. She was very affable indeed, shaking hands with us all, and that made me feel very uncomfortable, as I was feeling intensely the contrast between her surroundings and those of the thousands of poor souls that we all know of, who have lost their fathers, brothers and sons and have no comfort of any kind.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst introduced us, and made it quite clear that 10s. was not a living wage now that things were so dear, and, leaving that out, when an unskilled labourer can get 5d. an hour, surely a woman experienced at her trade should get as much as he does! Miss Sylvia also explained to her that her example in the matter will be followed by every employer in the country, and that she should use the power she has got to uplift women from now onwards.

My turn then came to speak and I gave the lady an account of how a single woman, whom I know personally, does actually live now. I can tell you friends this person very seldom has a good dinner, and it is impossible to buy coals, wood, coke, rent, bread, sugar and a thousand and one other things that are needed to keep going on 10s. per week. You will say that we have not been buying coals lately. No, but the 10s., Miss Macarthur is fixing will be in operation during the bitter weather and that is what we wanted to prevent. I then said that if I were in Miss Macarthur's position, I should demand that the Government shall take the responsibility for the daughters as well as for the "Sons of the Empire." In this fashion the Government should open up works to employ the workers who are thrown out, and should enter into healthy competition with existing manufacturers. People wanted work and not charity, and I think they are studying the employers, to our detriment, far too much, and after all we producers are more important than profit-mongers. I strongly suspect we have employers in power, and that is why they will not enter into competition with themselves.

Mrs. Walker of Poplar then spoke and no one could have spoken plainer. She said: "We have no need to tell you how working women live in the East End, no one knows better than you do with your experience. *You* know that 10s. is not enough to live on." Mrs. Walker had budgets ready to prove her statements, one showing how much it costs a single woman, and the other, "when mother has to go to work, and have her children minded." These proved pretty conclusively what we claimed.

Mrs. Pascoe followed and explained that she, as the breadwinner of the family (her husband being an invalid) would feel it very hard, if the standard of woman's labour being lowered, as was suggested, caused her to be reduced as things are a terrible struggle now and that she earns what is considered very good money.

Mrs. Parsons referred to the case of an alien, a Russian girl, whom the magistrate would not allow to land unless she could prove she would be earning 17s. 6d. per week in the situation to which she was going, and she said if it took 17s. 6d. to keep a Russian girl, it would take 17s. 6d. to keep an English girl.

Mrs. Payne then said in her trade of bootmaking it would never have done if she had only earned 10s. per week; how the poor mothers with children were going to manage on it she could not see.

Miss Macarthur then gave us her version of the story. It only seemed to appear to her in one light and that was that 3d. an hour was not so bad. She would not look at it in any other way and it did not seem to concern her as to how women were going to live on 10s. Try as we could, she would only compare with the rate of the sweated workers (young girls) who get less than 3d. an hour, as we know they do in some cases. We wanted women with children dependent on them compared to labourers in the same position, but we could not bring her round. She seemed to think we had a great deal to be thankful for, to think that anything was being done. We all know of women who only earn about 2d. an hour on shirts at piecework, because they are not quick, but they do not stop at 10s. They keep on until they have earned what they can and that is where the trouble comes in here. They won't let you earn more than 10s. We want the same rate as unskilled labourers and enough hours at that.

The workers will have to work out their own salvation they must wake up and demand fair play. It seemed to me that when these Queen Mary's Workrooms are an accomplished fact they will be a sort of blind ally occupation and make a curious muddle. I may be wrong, I hope I am.

We all came away feeling very unsatisfied and wishing you workers would use your power to get us the vote, so that we could be in a position to force to be just, this mean Government of ours that is killing our men and leaving the women to starve!

RESIDENTS IN THE BOROUGH OF POPLAR.

PRINCE OF WALES' FUND.

For relief or work men and women should register (women, between 10 and 1 p.m.; men, between 2 and 5) at the Public Library in Roman Road, for Bow; in Brunswick Road, for Bromley; in High Street, Poplar; or in Glengall Road for the Isle of Dogs. All men and women who usually earn their living and who want work must register at a Labour Exchange before going to the Library, and must produce their Labour Exchange cards.

LABOUR EXCHANGES.

The nearest Labour Exchange for men is in Brunswick Road, Poplar. We hope that a Labour Exchange for women will be started in Poplar shortly. In the meantime women must go to Well Street, Hackney, or to Whitechapel or Stratford.

DISTRESS COMMITTEE.

Men and women should apply for work under the Distress Committee at 126, Brunswick Road, Poplar. Men may be sent to Hollesley Bay, women may be employed at the workroom in Driffield Road, Bow, or at some other workroom. Only women who usually earn their living and are not usually supported by a husband or son can register.

PRINCE OF WALES' FUND.

At a meeting on Monday, Sept. 28, it was decided by the Local Representative Committee, that in cases of unemployment due to the War, where no employment is immediately available, the following scale of relief should be used:—

12s. 6d. a week for one adult.
7s. 6d. each for more than one adult living together.
4s. for each child 10 to 16 years.
3s. 6d. ,, ,, 5 to 10 ,,
3s. ,, ,, under 5 ,,

with a maximum of 25s. per family, save in exceptional cases.

It was decided that the Committee co-operate with the Vacant Lots Society, in order that if the Society could procure land and furnish seeds and tools, the Committee could pay wages to unemployed men out of the Prince of Wales' fund.

COMPARATIVE PRICES of CHEAPEST FOOD

	Before war.	Since war started
Tea, no difference		
Cheese, per lb.	7½d.	10d.
Sugar, per lb.	1¾d.	3¼d.
Dripping, per lb.	4d.	6d.
Cocoa, no difference		
Suet, per lb.	8d.	10d.
Butter, per lb.	1/-	1/4
Margarine, per lb.	6d.	8d.
Poultry Mixture, 2 qts.	2½d	3d.
Bread, per qtn.	5d.	6d.
Flour, per qtn.	4½d.	6d.
Cakes, per lb.	4d.	5d.
Biscuits, per lb.	4d.	5d.
Eggs, per 16	1/-	2/-
Bacon, per lb.	1/-	1/4
Fish is scarcer and dearer		
Meat, per lb.	3d.	6d.
Condensed Milk, per tin	3d.	6d.
Jam, per lb.	3d.	4d.
Spiced or Tinned Meat, per lb.	8d.	11d.
Treacle, per lb.	2d.	3d.
Dried Peas, per qt.	3d.	4d.
Haricot Beans, per qt.	3d.	4d.
Tinned Herrings, per tin	4½d.	5½d.

WHAT SOME OTHER WOMEN SAY

Like ourselves the women of the National Women's Council, B. S. P., are agitating to secure Government control of the supplies. They have organised a petition which in about a fortnight's time was signed by over 20,000 workers, most of whom are women.

Last year the Women's Council published a useful little leaflet which showed that the prices of necessaries had risen by over 3s. 9d. in the £. Before the leaflet was completed the increase during the preceeding 15 years was not 3s. 9d., but more than 5s. in the £. The leaflet also showed that whilst Trade Union combinations had raised wages nearly 1d. in the £ during the 10 years ending in 1911, during the same period the price of provisions had risen nearly 2s. 4d. in the £.

AMERICAN FOOD PRICES.

In Chicago, U.S.A., the city authorities are taking drastic steps to prevent gambling in food prices. The city has a municipal market on the grounds of the old "Oliver Goldsmith" school, and several others are to be added. Potatoes will be sold in the markets at cost price as has already been done by the city authorities in Indianopolis. It is said that the municipal markets will reduce the cost of living by 25 per cent.

UNEMPLOYED WOMEN.

Out of 145 women who applied for work at the Distress Committee's Office in Brunswick Road, Poplar, only five were recommended for work, and only one was actually taken on at a workroom. Many young women who usually earn their living, but have lost their employment through the War, are refused permission to register, because they have able-bodied fathers, who are in some cases out of work. Married women and widows are refused, because they have able-bodied husbands and sons.

The Board of Trade reports that on Sept. 25th there were 30,520 women, not insured against unemployment, on the Labour Exchange Registers, and 30,311 men. This does not by any means include all unemployed women, for many fail to register.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

Anon 2/6, Anon 2/6, Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck £1, Miss Erskine £2/2/-, Miss Skinner 2/6, Anon £5, Miss Mary Fox 5/-, Mrs. Singer (weekly) 10/-, Misses Purdey 5/-, Miss Violet Sydney 11/-, Anon 5/-, Mrs. Sanger £3, Miss Mary Floyd £1, Mrs. Chance £1, Mrs. Ayrton £10.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS: Mrs. Barnsdale 2/-, per Mr. R. Clark 5/3, Mrs. Walker (collecting box) £1/0/10, Mrs. Ensom £2, "Snowstorm" 10/7, Miss H. N. Mack 5/-, L.F. 2/6, Miss Dubock 2/-, Miss Canning 1/-, Mrs. Richmond (weekly) 2/6, Mrs. Russell 5/-, "Cuckoo" 1/6, Member of W.S.P.U. £1, C.M. & E.B. Holmes 7/6, Lady Sybil Smith £1/1/-, Miss Marks (collecting box) £1, Miss Watts (collecting box) 17/3, Mrs. Reinold (weekly) 2/6, Miss Glidden (for baby for one week) 2/6, Miss Morley (collecting box) 4/4½, Miss Fischer 10/-, Mrs. G. Lyle Smyth £5, James Leakey, Esq. 13/6, Rev. Cyril Isherwood 1/-, C. Dixon 1/-, Miss Hilda Brain 10/-, A Friend 10/-.

CLOTHES—Mrs. Hannah Annenberg, Miss Norah Picton, Hon. E. Haverfield, J.E. and G.H. Trill, Mrs. Russell, Member of W.S.P.U., Mrs. Mercer, A.E.P., Miss H. N. Mack, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Pelly.

APPLES—Mrs. M. Graham, A Friend.

FRUIT—Mrs. Wright. EGGS—Miss Durham

APPLES AND JELLY—W. Kennis Betty and Iris George.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser—Mrs. WATKINS.
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Good meetings have been held during the week, indoor and out. Many thanks are due to the friends who so kindly lent their aid to make the dinner and social a great success. Thanks are due also to Miss Marks and Miss Watts for taking collecting boxes to Westminster Abbey on Sunday. Sunday night's meeting in the Women's Hall, was well attended. A special appeal is made to members, now that we are so busy with the distress cases, to help all they can, by selling the paper, taking collecting boxes to all big meetings, to the theatre queues and other places up West, where people are likely to be passing. Funds are urgently needed to help us to keep our splendid organisation and to enable us to carry on still further the good work we are doing.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Sep. 25 :—
Central 348. Bow and Bromley 375.

Mrs. Payne	5€
Mrs. Watkins	56
Miss Marks	73

DISTRIBUTED.

Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. McCheyne, 350; Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Moore, 250; Mrs. Savoy, 250; Mrs. Carlisle, 200; Mrs. Morris, 200; Mrs. Clarke, 200; Mrs. Mantle, 200; Mrs. Pascoe, 100; Mrs. Lake, 100.

Miss Steward has undertaken to sell the *Woman's Dreadnought* regularly outside Charing Cross Station.

POPLAR.

Office—319 East India Dock Road.
Organiser (pro. tem)—Mrs. DRAKE.

On Monday, Miss Buchan went to Hyde Park and collected 9s. 2d. for the Distress Fund. We are all pleased to welcome Mrs. Bird back again and give many thanks to Miss Lagsding and friends for their kind assistance while she has been away in connection with papers. Good meeting on Tuesday at Dock Gates—Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Schlette, speakers. Well attended indoor meeting on Wednesday. We are glad to welcome back members who have been away through ill heath—Mrs. Organ and Mrs. Neuss—hope they will be able to come more often now, and that they bring some friends with them. Afternoon meeting on Thursday was also a good one—Mrs. Bouvier speaker. In the evening our paper-sellers attended Mrs. Pankhurst's Meeting at Kingsway and sold 198 papers. Mrs. Walker took up a collecting box and collected £1 0s. 10d. for our Babies Milk. Friday evening, as usual, at Piggott Street. A large crowd, rather mixed, which made it more interesting. Mrs. Walker, as speaker, managed them very well when their opposition commenced and scored every time. We are opening a new restaurant called the "Poplar Women's Hall," at 20 Railway Street, Poplar, and from Monday, 28th September, the milk will be distributed from that address instead of 319 East India Dock Road. Dinners, price 2d. (children 1d.) from 12 noon to 2 p.m. In the evening, 6 to 7 (Saturdays 5 to 6 p.m.) soup will be served at 1d. a pint. Any friends who would like to try dinners for themselves will be welcome.

338 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Sep. 26
81 Mrs. Schlette and Mrs. Hicks in office, 61 Miss W. Long, 60 Miss Lagsding, 60 Miss D. Morley.

Distributed—Miss P. Lagsding and Miss T. Barker 200, Mrs. Churcher 300.

Miss Daisy Morley also took collecting box and collected 4s. 4½d.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Daisy Parsons,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

Thursday meetings are, as usual, again at 124 Barking Road at 8 p.m. Mrs. Walker spoke to a large crowd at the "Peacock" on Monday last. Twelve Canning Town members went to the Women's Hall on Saturday, some of them for the first time. Miss Ethel Stephens is thanked for contributing to the programme. Do not forget the Canning Town Public Hall meeting early in October. We have a reputation to keep up. Names of stewards, collectors and paper sellers, etc. wanted. Either give your names to Miss Paterson or Secretary.

203 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Sep. 23

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

R. S. P. U.

Hon. Sec.—J. W. Bonarius, 89 Wyke Road.

The members of the R.S.P.U. thank the public for their support on Saturday, Sept. 19th, to comrade Wise, at the Social run at the Women's Hall on his behalf. The R.S.P.U. meets at the Women's Hall, Bow, every Tuesday night at 8.30, all men Rebels are asked to join. Entrance fee 3d., contributions 1d. per week.

Dreadnoughts sold 24.

E. LONDON MEN'S SOCIETY FOR W.S.

Hon. Sec.—E. A. Watson,
317 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Will members please note that permanent offices have been secured at 317 Roman Road, Bow, E., and that all communications should be sent to the Sec., E. A. Watson, at that address. General meetings will be held there every Tuesday, when all members and suggestions for propaganda will be cordially welcomed and considered.

THE MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS.

War is taking its toll of women and children already.

The returns of births and deaths published weekly by the Registrar General furnish only too good evidence of this fact.

We have taken three weeks as affording a better comparison with last years figures, than the return of one week only.

The huge increase in the fatality of children's diseases is unquestionably due in large measure to the fact that they have been less well nourished this year, owing to widespread distress and the high price of food, and consequently have been less able to withstand the ravages of disease. During these same three weeks 21 women have died in childbirth against 14 in the corresponding three weeks last year.

We can think of no more terrible commentary on the dilatory action of those in whose hands the administration of the National Relief Fund has been placed than the foregoing figures.

Cause.	Number of deaths in 3 weeks of children of 5 years & under, from Aug. 31st, to Sept. 19th, 1914.				Deaths of children of 5 years and under in corresponding three weeks of last year.
	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	Total children under 5 years.	
Measles	23	35	14	72	14
Whooping Cough	25	15	14	54	21
Debility (infants)	94	—	—	94	56
Diarrhœa	794	121	25	940	*656

* This figure (for 1913) includes *all* deaths from diarrhœa, not only those of children

At the Bethnal Green Coroner's Court, Dr. William John Potts, medical superintendent of the Bethnal Green Infirmary said that there had been a large increase in the number of infirmary patients, about 70 or 80 a week, for the past six weeks. In the large majority of cases he put this down to poverty, as owing to so many bread-winners being away at the front those left behind had suffered privation and a consequent loss of health. The out-relief ran, he believed, to ten times what it used to be.

Dr. Knox, of Bethnal Green Road, said that reduced wages, half-time, and no work had brought in their train lowered vitality through want of food, and the death-rate was bound to go up. People preferred to suffer in silence and bear a great deal rather than parade their poverty. It was as well to know, therefore, that out-relief given by the Guardians was kept in a separate book, and would not rank as Poor Law relief, thus removing the stigma that might be attached to it.

SOLDIERS' WIVES.

The Board of Trade published in 1908 the results of an enquiry into the cost of living in a number of industrial centres throughtout the United Kingdom. The results of the enquiry are given in the form of "index numbers" which, taking London as 100, give the comparative level of prices and rent in other places. With this table, part of which we give below, to guide them, the War Office authorities fixed an unvarying 3s. 6d. to meet "the extra cost of living in London" for soldiers' wives, and left out of consideration the extra cost in other large towns. If rent were the only varying factor and if London women were being given an adequate allowance, the War Office would have behaved generously towards women in the Provinces. But rent is not the only varying factor, and prices vary so greatly as almost to nullify the advantage of lower rents outside London. Even if the allowance in London were adequate, the women in well over 50 large towns are, on the Board of Trade's own showing, suffering a grave injustice. The following tables show (A) the comparative rates of the allowance paid to soldier's wives taking London as 100, (B) the comparative cost of living (Board of Trade figures).

A.

	Wife without child.	Wife, 1 child.
London	100	100
Provinces	78·1	81

	Wife, 2 children.	Wife, 3 children.	Wife, 4 children.
London	100	100	100
Provinces	83·3	85·1	86·3

B.

Town	Rent	Prices	Rent and Prices combined.
London	100	100	**100**
Croydon	81	104	**99**
Dover	56	106	**96**
Plymouth & Devonport	81	99	**95**
Portsmouth	57	105	**95**
Sheerness	59	104	**95**
Southampton	65	103	**95**
Newcastle-on-Tyne	76	98	**94**
Luton	61	101	**93**
Barrow-in-Furness	63	99	**92**
Cardiff	59	99	**91**
Hull	48	99	**89**
Liverpool	65	91	**86**
Manchester	62	92	**86**
Birmingham	59	91	**85**

Thus a woman with two children living in Croydon gets 83.3 as compared with 100 if she lived in London (see table A).

She pays 81/100's of a London woman's rent, but for food and fuel, etc., she pays 104/100's of London prices (table B, columns 1 and 2). Taking into consideration her lower rent and her heavier food bill, her total cost of living proves to be 99 as compared with 100 in London (B. col. 3). But her allowance is only 83.3.

We know that women in London have a hard struggle to make two ends meet. How is the poor woman in the Provinces to manage?

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

The following letter is being sent to girls who register at the Hackney Labour Exchange.

Local Advisory Committee,
Hackney Labour Exchange,
310/312 Mare St., Hackney.
18th Sept., 1914.

My Committee have been giving careful attention as to how they can best help the girls who are out of employment during the present crisis. We realise that it is very disheartening to come to the Labour Exchange day after day to hear the same remark "We are sorry we have nothing for you to-day." We wish to avoid this weary waiting at the Exchange and at the same time see that the girls shall be advised as soon as a suitable vacancy occurs.

We have, therefore, arranged with the help of various ladies, to open a Club Institute where girls can find useful occupation all day in the way of classes and recreation. The classes will help you to be more efficient in your daily work. Girls who take advantage of these facilities will be given the first offer of vacancies notified. Girls will be expected to attend classes daily for three hours.

You are cordially and earnestly invited to attend the Opening Meeting of the Club at the Aspland Hall, New Gravel Pit Church, Chatham Place, at 9.30 a.m., on Monday, 21st September, 1914, when further particulars of the scheme will be given.

I much hope that there will be a hearty response to this invitation, and that each girl on our register will do all she can to make this experiment a great success.

Yours sincerely,
J. Theodore Harris,
Secretary.

N.B.—Please bring this letter with you. If at work, please return your brown card at once.

We are told, that some girls have been told, that they will get no work through the exchange unless they attend the school. This is forcing education down the throat with a vengeance. Girls who attend the school, may miss the chance of employment through other agencies. Surely the girls have a right to chose.

FROM A SOLDIER FROM BOW.

I got down to the camp on Wednesday afternoon and they gave us some tea in basins and one pound of bread and some marmalade, then we went over to the canteen and stopped there till 9.30. for your lights have to be out at a quarter to ten. Well, for a start, you have to be up at 5.30. in the morning, have a wash and then they take you on parade and then take you two and-a-half miles away for a swim, then you have to come back to breakfast for half an hour and on parade. We had to fight for our grub the first three days for there is twelve men in one camp and you have one basin of tea between two and one pound of bread that has got to last you all day. We get cheese and sometimes some bacon for breakfast, and for dinner we get stewed mutton and stewed beef and potatoes with the skins, some is peeled! You get one dixie bull between two tents for tea. We have some jam and sometimes some salmon and tomato herrings, it runs about half of one each. The way we are served down here is rather rough. There was one man walking about the camps with a blanket round him because he had no trousers on, and there is more men nearly the same. They have got very bad clothes. Well I have been waiting for a pair of boots for a week and have not got them yet. My boots are nearly off my feet and I have not had a clean for two weeks. You have to take your shirt off and wash it out yourself. They are getting some more shirts now, but there is not enough to go round, for there are hundreds of men waiting for them. They told us on Friday that if there is any man that can get a suit, a pair of boots, overcoat, cap, socks, knife, fork and spoon, they will give us ten shillings for the loan of them until they get others for us. There is not one man that has got his kit given him.

Good Luck. Give my best respects to all the members of the R.S.P.U. and tell them I hope to be up and see them before I go to France, for it will not be long before we go. Well, the sooner the best out of this for I am getting fed up with this down here and want to get out of canvas into barracks in the warm.

To the Editor of
The Woman's Dreadnought.

May we through your paper appeal for assistance for some thirty-six of our countrywomen and their children who are the victims of the naturalisation law which deprives a woman who marries a foreign subject of her nationality.

These Welsh women are the wives of Germans who were working in the Welsh mines, and they were born in Wales and have never been out of Wales. Owing to the war, their husbands are now prisoners in England, and they and their families are left absolutely destitute.

The administrators of the Prince of Wales' Fund have refused to assist them, on the ground that they are not British subjects, and they cannot be helped from German funds.

We propose, therefore, to raise a special fund for their relief, and feel sure we may rely upon a generous response from those of your readers who realise what it is to these poor women to have not only their husbands torn from them, but to lose their homes and see their children starving.

The American Consul at Swansea has most kindly offered his co-operation in the distribution of the fund.

Donations will be gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer :—
Edith R. Mansell-Moullin,
89 Wimpole Street, London.
Helena Gertrude Jones, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Hon. Treasurer of the Fund,
3 Rhodesia Avenue, Halifax, Yorks.
September 28th, 1914.

A SOLDIER'S WIFE.

A woman, who had gone to Kent to pick hops to make a little money because she had got into debt through being kept waiting so long for the money to which she was entitled, on account of her husband having gone to the war, received a telegram from the War Office saying that he had been brought back from France dangerously wounded, and that he was lying in hospital at——. She had not enough money to pay her railway fare to see her husband, but managed to borrow it from friends. It is necessary that the War Office should send the railway fare, or the Government allow the woman to travel free under such circumstances.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND

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